

19 September 1972

[redacted] Director
Foreign Broadcast Information Service

STAT

Dear Hank:

Subject: TCN Privileges

When GOJ late in August approved the right of USFJ to hire certain TCNs, it added a warning that TCNs should not be given any SOFA privileges. Since USFJ long had been giving its few TCNs a variety of privileges, and GOJ knew this, we wondered: Is this warning merely a formality, or does GOJ intend to enforce rules it previously had ignored? What in GOJ eyes constitutes a SOFA "privilege"?

Last week I discussed these questions in Tokyo, and rather full log notes are attached.

Probably the most informed opinion--and one that got general acceptance--came from [redacted] who had worked closely with the GOJ on FBIS matters during Reversion negotiations. He thinks that we can continue quietly to provide benefits as we have in the past. We must, of course, be prepared to back off fast if we perceive indications of GOJ sensitivity. He feels our housing and our use of DOD schools and hospitals is safe. He again encouraged us to "muddle through".

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The services on Okinawa have adopted a "wait-and-see" attitude on privileges. They so far have made no move to react to the GOJ "warning".

I suggest we follow [redacted] advice. GOJ doubtless will eventually tighten the strings, but this day may still be a good way off.

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Yours truly,

[redacted]

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Attachment:
As stated

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P.S. [] made two points that I also noted in the log although you probably have heard them before from Tokyo Bureau: That an interim move of the bureau seems necessary; that Navy bases might have durability.

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